THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE SYSTEMS OF MODELS IN PLANNING

The 2nd international seminar on the utilization of systems of models in planning, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held in Moscow, between the 2nd and the 11th of December 1974.

The seminar has discussed problems concerning:

— the justifying of the systems of models in planning:

— the problem of inter-connections between models;

— the adaptation of models to the requirements of planning;

— data base and computation technique used for economic-mathematical modelling in planning.

The participating countries (over 20 countries and international organizations) presented reports on:

— model of sectorial and/or territorial economic planning;

— systems of models used in planning;

— the stage of the use of models in planning in general.

During the debates on the use of modelling systems, stress was laid on their necessity due to:

— the growing complexity of the economic-social activities;

— the dynamic character of planning;

— the necessity of integrating the planning activity for various fields of social-economic activities;

— the increasing facilities in case of the modification, adding or elimination of certain component models, etc.

In most countries, the modelling systems are built on the basis of a central model which is, generally, based on the model of the balance of inter-branch connections.

They insisted on the necessity of a theory of the modelling systems and on the necessity of establishing the convergence of the system of models. At present, suboptimal solutions are accepted in most cases, due to the difficulty of achieving a system of applicable models whose convergence towards an optimum solution be demonstrated.

The problem of interconnections between the models of a system of models was mainly discussed in connection with the demand to ensure the convergence of the solution of the system of models.

Although in many countries the systems of models are used in planning parallel with the traditional methods, at present there are countries in which they are integrated into the planning and decision-making systems at all levels. This integration has a growing tendency in ever more countries.

Problems about sectorial models, regional models, simulation and optimizing models have also been discussed. Stress was laid on the importance and, at the same time, on the difficulty of taking into account technical progress, the organization of labour, the level of automation and mechanization in building the planning models.

As regards the data necessary for the building and application of the systems of models, in many countries there is a tendency of increased accessibility to data, this being a necessary condition for applying modelling in planning. They also insisted on the necessity for the builders of models to participate in establishing the system of statistical data collection and in interpreting the results of the models.

The difficulties arising in the building of a system of models for planning require a close collaboration between the builders of models, the academic staff and specialists in various research fields.

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